

REMARKS

This paper is responsive to an Office Action mailed September 8, 2005. Prior to this response, claims 1-27 were pending. After amending claims 1, 4-6, 13, 16-19, and 27, canceling claims 2 and 15, and adding claim 28, claims 1, 3-14, and 16-28 remain pending.

Section 2 of the Office Action states that the title is not descriptive. In response the title of the instant application has been amended to **USER-DEFINED PRINTER SELECTION ADMINISTRATION POLICY**.

In Section 4 of the Office Action claims 1-27 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by Yan et al. ("Yan"; US Patent 6,003,065). With respect to claims 1 and 13, the Office Action states that Yan describes the selection of a printer in response to a programmable administrative policy that cross-references user-defined usage to print job characteristics (col. 19, ln. 12-22). This rejection is traversed as follows.

"A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference." *Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil of California*, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987).

Generally, Yan's system is similar to the system described as prior art in the Applicant's specification (Fig. 1a and page 1, ln. 11 through page 3, ln. 12), where is printer selected from a pool on the basis of predetermined criteria such as speed, availability, or capabilities matching the print job. For example, at col. 18, ln. 37-43, Yan describes a

peripheral device that is either manually selected, or selected by an application using "a predetermined set of characteristics", such as speed or capability.

In his description of Fig. 3, Yan states that Step 302 selects a peripheral device on the basis of predetermined selection criteria. Step 304 provides the user with a prioritized list of devices. The user may manually select a device from the list. If the user does not make a selection, the application automatically selects the highest priority device from the list (col. 19, ln. 1-23).

To clarify the Applicant's invention, claims 1 and 13 have been amended to recite that the administrative policy is programmed at a user interface (UI), cross-referencing user-defined preferences for the usage of network-connected printers, to print job characteristics. As noted above, Yan does not describe his "predetermined selection criteria" as being programmable from a UI, as being user-defined, or as being based upon user preferences. Also as noted above, the only specific selection criteria mentioned by Yan are speed and capability. Yan makes no mention as to how these criteria are determined. Neither is Yan's manual override option a description of an administrative policy that cross-references user-defined preferences to print job characteristics. The Applicant's administrative policy is *not* a simple manual override that permits a user to bypass programmed selections. Rather, it is a program that automatically makes selections based upon printer selection criteria that is defined and input by a user.

On a practical level, the claimed invention differs from Yan in that it permits an individual user or administrator to modify the "factory set" selection criteria. For example, a conventional system may

logically select the highest speed printer to process a particularly large print job. The claimed invention permits an administrator to modify the decision making process, for example, not sending a 200+ page print job to the fastest printer, if the fastest printer is prone to jamming 200-page print jobs.

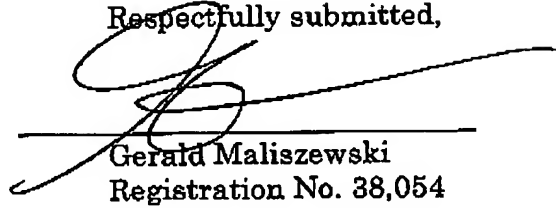
Yan does not describe a programmable administrative policy that cross-references user-defined preferences for the usage of network-connected printers, to print job characteristics, as recited in claims 1 and 13. Since Yan does not explicitly describe every limitation of the claimed invention, he cannot anticipate claims 1 and 13. Claims 3-12, dependent from claim 1, and claims 14 and 16-27, dependent from claim 13, enjoy the same distinctions from the cited prior art reference, and the Applicant requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claim 28 was added based on subject matter presented in the Applicant's specification on page 15, beginning at line 12, as a specific example of a user-defined administrative policy based upon cost as a preference.

It is believed that the application is in condition for allowance and reconsideration is earnestly solicited.

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Respectfully submitted,



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